

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) In a method for optical information recording by patternwise irradiating a thin film of a polymeric compound containing an azobenzene moiety, said polymeric compound having a number-average molecular weight in the range from 3,000 to 10,000, with a first light beam falling in a first irradiation spot on the polymeric thin film to effect a morphological change of the polymeric thin film, the improvement which comprises simultaneously irradiating the polymeric thin film patternwise with a second light beam of substantially the same wavelength as the first light beam falling in a second irradiation spot, the diameter of the second irradiation spot being larger than the diameter of the first irradiation spot and the second irradiation ~~spot~~ spot enveloping the first irradiation spot, with the proviso that said first and second light beams do not form a hologram or a diffraction grating.

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Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 in which the irradiance by the second light beam is in the range from 1% to 1000% of the irradiance by the first light beam.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the irradiance by the second light beam is in the range from 10% to 100% of the irradiance by the first light beam.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Cancelled)